

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1-94. (Cancelled)

95. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:

receiving, via a computer network, seller offer information, the seller offer information ~~defining~~ comprising information indicative of:

- (i) a seller, and
- (ii) at least one ~~an~~ item being offered for sale by the seller, and
- (iii) a price at which the at least one item is being offered for sale, and
- (iv) one or more characteristics of the item;

determining, based on the one or more characteristics of the item, a quality class of the item;

receiving buyer offer information, the buyer offer information ~~defining~~ comprising information indicative of:

- (i) a buyer, and
- (ii) at least one ~~an~~ item the buyer desires to purchase,
- (iii) a price the buyer is willing to pay for the at least one item the buyer desires to purchase, and
- (iv) a desired quality class of the item;

receiving credit card account information associated with the buyer;
storing the seller offer information and buyer offer information; and
determining, via a processor, whether the at least one item desired for purchase by the buyer and the at least one item being offered for sale by the seller correspond[[]];

~~determining a first amount to be added to the price the buyer is willing to pay to match the price at which the at least one item is being offered for sale if the buyer offer information and seller offer information do not initially correspond;~~

~~charging the credit card account associated with the buyer the price at which the at least one item is being offered for sale; and~~

~~crediting the seller an amount based on the price at which the at least one item is being offered for sale.~~

96. (Currently amended) The method of claim 95, wherein it is determined said determining whether that the at least one item desired for purchase by the buyer and the at least one item being offered for sale by the seller do not correspond, further comprising comprises:

providing the buyer an opportunity to commit to buy the item desired for purchase by the buyer if a corresponding item being offered for sale can be found at a later time
~~comparing a desired condition set by the buyer and a condition of the at least one item offered for sale.~~

97. (Currently amended) The method of claim 95, further comprising:
charging the credit card account associated with the buyer the price at which the item is being offered for sale; and

crediting the seller an amount based on the price at which the item is being offered for sale

~~wherein the first amount to be added comprises a conditional subsidy offered to the buyer.~~

98-108. (Cancelled)

109. (New) A method, comprising:

receiving, by a controller, buyer information indicative of a product desired to be purchased by a buyer;

determining, by the controller, seller information indicative of a plurality of products offered for sale by a plurality of sellers;

determining, by the controller, that the product desired to be purchased by the buyer does not match any of the plurality of products offered for sale by the plurality of sellers;

storing the buyer information;

receiving, by the controller, after the determination that no match exists, additional seller information indicative of an additional product offered for sale by a seller;

matching, by the controller, the product desired to be purchased by the buyer to the additional product offered for sale by the seller;

providing an indication of the match to the buyer; and

automatically charging the buyer, based upon a credit card identifier associated with the buyer, for the additional product offered for sale by the seller.

110. (New) The method of claim 109, further comprising:

comparing, by the controller, the product desired to be purchased by the buyer to each of the plurality of products offered for sale by the plurality of sellers.

111. (New) The method of claim 109, further comprising:

providing, after the determination that no match exists, the buyer an opportunity to commit to buy the desired product if a match can be found at a later time;

receiving, by the controller, additional buyer information defining a commitment of the buyer to purchase the desired product if a match can be found at a later time, wherein the additional buyer information is indicative of:

a quality associated with the desired product;

a maximum price that the buyer commits to pay for the desired product;

a time limit defining an expiration date of the commitment; and

the credit card identifier associated with the buyer.

112. (New) A method, comprising:

receiving buyer information indicative of a product desired to be purchased by a buyer;

searching, by a controller, through a plurality of seller database records associated with products offered for sale by sellers, for a seller database record that corresponds to the buyer information;

determining, based on the searching, that no seller database record corresponds to the buyer information;

receiving, after the determination that no seller database record corresponds to the buyer information, additional buyer information defining a commitment of the buyer to purchase the desired product, wherein the additional buyer information is indicative of:

a quality associated with the desired product; and

a maximum price that the buyer commits to pay for the desired product;

creating, after the receiving of the additional buyer information, a new seller database record associated with a specific product offered for sale by a specific seller;

determining, by the controller, upon the occurrence of a pre-determined event, that the additional buyer information corresponds to the new seller database record; and automatically charging the buyer for the specific product.

113. (New) The method of claim 112, wherein the pre-determined event comprises at least one of:

- (i) an elapse of a pre-determined period of time; and
- (ii) the creation of the new seller database record.

114. (New) The method of claim 112, wherein the determining that the additional buyer information corresponds to the new seller database record comprises:

identifying a minimum price associated with the specific product offered for sale by the seller; and

determining, by the controller, that the minimum price associated with the specific product is less than or equal to the maximum price committed to by the buyer.

115. (New) The method of claim 112, wherein the determining that the additional buyer information corresponds to the new seller database record comprises:

identifying a minimum price associated with the specific product offered for sale by the seller;

determining, by the controller, that the minimum price associated with the specific product offered for sale by the seller is greater than the maximum price that the buyer committed to pay; and

calculating, by the controller, a gap amount by which the minimum price associated with the specific product offered for sale by the seller exceeds the maximum price that the buyer committed to pay.

116. (New) The method of claim 115, further comprising:

identifying, by the controller, a first amount to be added to the maximum price that the buyer committed to pay, wherein the first amount is equal to or greater than the gap amount.

117. (New) The method of claim 116, further comprising:

offering to provide the first amount to the buyer.

118. (New) The method of claim 116, further comprising:

offering to provide the first amount to the seller.

119. (New) The method of claim 112, wherein the additional buyer information is further indicative of:

a quality class associated with the desired product.

120. (New) The method of claim 119, further comprising:

providing, to the buyer, based on the quality class associated with the product desired by the buyer, a suggested price for the desired product.

121. (New) The method of claim 120, wherein the suggested price for the desired product comprises a suggested range of prices.

122. (New) The method of claim 119, wherein the determining that the additional buyer information corresponds to the new seller database record comprises:

identifying a quality class associated with the specific product offered for sale by the seller; and

determining that the quality classes associated with the specific product offered for sale by the seller and with the product desired by the buyer are equivalent.

123. (New) The method of claim 122, wherein the identification of the quality class associated with the specific product offered for sale by the seller is based on at least one of: (i) a product category, (ii) at least one product feature, (iii) a product retail price, (iv) an age associated with the specific product, (v) a manufacturer of the specific product, (vi) a product description, (vii) a product image, (viii) a product condition, and (ix) an accessory associated with the specific product.

124. (New) The method of claim 122, further comprising:
providing, to the seller, based on the quality class associated with the specific product offered for sale by the seller, a suggested price for the specific product.

125. (New) The method of claim 124, wherein the suggested price for the specific product offered for sale by the seller comprises a suggested range of prices.

126. (New) The method of claim 112, wherein the additional buyer information is further indicative of:
a time limit defining an expiration date of the commitment.

127. (New) The method of claim 112, wherein the additional buyer information is further indicative of:
a payment identifier associated with the buyer.

128. (New) The method of claim 127, wherein the automatic charging is based upon the payment identifier associated with the buyer.

129. (New) The method of claim 112, further comprising:

determining whether to perform the determining that the additional buyer information corresponds to the new seller database record.

130. (New) The method of claim 129, wherein the determining whether to perform the determining that the additional buyer information corresponds to the new seller database record is based upon at least one of: (i) a past popularity of the product desired by the buyer, (ii) a current popularity of the product desired by the buyer, and (iii) a predicted future popularity of the product desired by the buyer.

131. (New) The method of claim 129, wherein the determining whether to perform the determining that the additional buyer information corresponds to the new seller database record is based upon at least one of: (i) a past popularity of the specific product offered for sale by the seller, (ii) a current popularity of the specific product offered for sale by the seller, and (iii) a predicted future popularity of the specific product offered for sale by the seller.

132. (New) The method of claim 112, wherein the additional buyer information defines commitments from a plurality of buyers to purchase the desired product, further comprising:

selecting, by the controller, the buyer from the plurality of buyers.

133. (New) The method of claim 132, wherein the selecting is based upon priority rankings associated with each buyer from the plurality of buyers.

134. (New) The method of claim 133, wherein the priority rankings are based on at least one of: (i) priority payments made by one or more of the buyers from the plurality of buyers, (ii) transaction histories associated with one or more of the buyers from the plurality of buyers, and (iii) a comparison of the new seller database record and the additional buyer information.

135. (New) The method of claim 112, wherein the new seller database record is indicative of a specific product offered for sale by each seller from a plurality of sellers, further comprising:

selecting, by the controller, the seller from the plurality of sellers.

136. (New) The method of claim 135, wherein the selecting is based upon priority rankings associated with each seller from the plurality of sellers.

137. (New) The method of claim 136, wherein the priority rankings are based on at least one of: (i) priority payments made by one or more of the sellers from the plurality of sellers, (ii) transaction histories associated with one or more of the sellers from the plurality of sellers, and (iii) a comparison of the new seller database record and the additional buyer information.